THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Government have seen the report of the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) that China is assisting Pakistan to develop nuclear explosives. We have no confirmed reports suggesting that China is transferring Biological Warfare Technology to Pakistan. Both China and Pakistan are States Parties to the Biological Weapons Convention which prohibits production, possession, deployment, use, transfer and acquisition of biological weapons. Government have made known to the Chinese side some of our security concerns. Our views on disarmament and proliferation of nuclear weapons, including concerns on external assistance in enhancement of Pakistan's military capabilities are known to the Chinese.

FPO Licences to Pepsico India Holdings

*286. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI S. AUSTIN:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted Seven FPO licences to Pepsico India Holdings; and

(b) whether Pepsico India Holdings own bottling plants in its own name; if not, the basis on which FPO licences were granted to Pepsico India Holdings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) M/s. Pepsico India Holding have been granted 7 manufacturing licences for sweetened carbonated beverages for their 7 soft drink bottling plants located in different places of the country under Fruit Products Order, 1955 (FPO). In addition, M/s. Pepsico India Holding have also been given one Re-labeller licence under FPO.

Declaration of State Roads as National Highways

*287. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposal submitted before his Ministry by different State Government for declaring State Roads as National Highways;

(b) the action initiated by his Ministry to implement those proposals; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Various State Governments have forwarded about 134 proposals aggregating to a length of about 38,700 Km. for declaration of State Roads as National Highways during the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c). A length of 369 Km. has been declared as National Highway during the 8th Five Year Plan so far. However, owing to the limited availability of funds for National highways, it may not be possible to declare any other road in the country as a National Highway at this stage.

Telephone Connections under the Privatisation Programme of MTNL

*288. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain advertisements indicating telephone connections available on demand for Rupees 2,500/-only under privatisation programme of M.T.N.L.;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme with formalities and eligibilities required to get such connections;

(c) whether provision of Telephone connections under the scheme will privide some benefits to subscribers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;